

**SENATE . . . . . No. 707**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Michael J. Rodrigues***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to college tuition and fees.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	<i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i>	
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 707**

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By Mr. Rodrigues, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 707) of Michael J. Rodrigues and Alan Silvia for legislation relative to college and universities tuition and fees. Higher Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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An Act relative to college tuition and fees.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2015 is hereby amended by striking out section  
2   36 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3           SECTION 36. Section 9 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
4   striking out, in lines 75 to 79, inclusive, the words “In the case of the university, the council shall  
5   review the recommendations of the board of trustees relative to tuition rates at said university  
6   and its campuses. Said tuition rates shall be subject to the approval of the council” and inserting  
7   in place thereof the following words:-

8           Tuition rates shall be adjusted annually commencing each July 1 by the growth of the  
9   annualized percentage rate and shall be subject to the approval of the council; provided,  
10   however, that tuition rates at the University of Massachusetts shall be subject to section 1B of  
11   chapter 75 and shall not require the approval of the council. For the purposes of this section, the  
12   words “annualized percentage rate” shall mean the percentage amount equal to the percentage

13 increase or decrease, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Boston  
14 metropolitan area over the preceding 12 months, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of  
15 the United States department of labor.

16 SECTION 2. Section 9 of Chapter 15A of the general laws, as most recently amended by  
17 Section 36 of chapter 46 of the acts of 2015, is hereby amended by striking out the following  
18 words:- “Said guidelines shall be based upon a study of tuition and fees which shall be conducted  
19 by the council, and which shall be authorized by statute; provided, that fees as defined by said  
20 guidelines, shall not exceed twenty-five percent of total student charges for the state colleges and  
21 the community colleges” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

22 Said guidelines shall be based upon a study of tuition and fees which shall be conducted  
23 by the council, and which shall be authorized by statute; provided, however, that fees as defined  
24 by said guidelines shall be adjusted annually commencing each July 1 by the growth of the  
25 annualized percentage rate. For the purposes of this section, the words “annualized percentage  
26 rate” shall mean the percentage amount equal to the percentage increase or decrease, if any, in  
27 the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Boston metropolitan area over the  
28 preceding 12 months, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States  
29 department of labor.

30 SECTION 3. Section 1B of chapter 75 of the general laws, as most recently amended by  
31 Section 73 of chapter 46 of the acts of 2015, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (b)  
32 and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

33 “(b) The board of trustees shall fix and establish student charges for the university. In-  
34 state tuition and mandatory student charges shall preserve affordability for residents of the

35 commonwealth. Out-of-state student charges shall appropriately balance the financial needs of  
36 the university with the need to be competitive with peer institutions and, to the extent possible,  
37 cover, at a minimum, the actual cost of a student's education. Tuition shall comprise the majority  
38 portion of student charges. In establishing student charges, the board of trustees shall consider  
39 factors including: (i) the Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the  
40 United States Department of Labor; (ii) the Higher Education Price Index calculated by  
41 Commonfund; (iii) tuition and fee rates at peer institutions; (iv) collective bargaining costs; (v)  
42 total support from the commonwealth, including direct appropriations and support for capital  
43 construction and maintenance; and (vi) other relevant data and measures. The board shall adjust  
44 annually commencing each July 1 in-state student charges by the growth of the annualized  
45 percentage rate. For the purposes of this section, the words "annualized percentage rate" shall  
46 mean the percentage amount equal to the percentage increase or decrease, if any, in the  
47 Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Boston metropolitan area over the  
48 preceding 12 months, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States  
49 department of labor.